



BOARD REPORT

October 10, 2011

5:00 p.m.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Board Members: Wade Babcock; Doug Bender; Joyce Carter (absent); Dr. Larry Kutina; Kevin Mauler; Cheryl Rukan; and Dwight Young (absent).

Board Member Comments. Dr. Larry Kutina acknowledged that three persons present have students deserving recognition. Kevin Mauler's daughter McKenna recently was the Tribune's *Athlete of the Week*; Dan Brungardt's son Nathan was an attendant / escort at last week's GBHS Homecoming festivities; and Jennifer Schartz's daughter Brianna qualified for state tennis competition.

Electronic Communication Guidance: Superintendent Vernon spoke of the continuing process of developing electronic communication guidelines for the district. He noted that Mark Calcara, BOE attorney, had attended the 9/27/11 meeting to present the updated document and to gather BOE input. Mr. Calcara has now developed *Revision 5*, reflecting the Board's message of the need for persons to *accept responsibility* for their communications.

Following a question regarding the policy's reference to disciplinary action, board members referred to existing BOE policies relevant to infractions. There was discussion regarding potential communications misuse such as slanderous remarks initiated by one person naming another. The intent is that all parties will focus on the purpose and the benefits of electronic communication. The document will be returned to the BOE at their 10/25/11 meeting for possible adoption.

Potential Sale of Shady Grove Property: The Shady Grove property continues to be offered for sale through local realtors. Mr. Brungardt indicated that at the current time three persons are showing interest in the property. The BOE will be notified immediately if one or more offer would be received so that a special meeting could be called to consider the details.

KASB Delegate Assembly: KASB's annual convention will be on December 2-4, 2011, in Overland Park, KS. As part of the registration process, USD 428 must submit the name of the official delegate who votes on behalf of our local Board of Education regarding pertinent issues. Dwight Young was designated as the board's delegate, with Wade Babcock being the alternate.

Memorandum of Understanding – Teacher-Mentor: The administration and GB-NEA representatives have discussed mentor pay for teacher-mentors who, because of additional requirements, work with a beginning teacher beyond the first year. A *Memorandum of Understanding* has been reached whereby the mentor in such circumstances will be compensated \$250 for the 2011-2012 year and whereby the matter will be addressed during spring 2012 negotiations. The BOE approved the Memorandum of Understanding.

Request from the GBHS National Honor Society: National Honor Society members plan a food drive November 7-14, 2011, with a goal of collecting 8,000 food items for the Food Bank. The NHS submitted to the BOE a request whereby, if the goal is reached, the entire GBHS student body

would have no morning classes on March 9, 2012, a date with a scheduled dismissal at 11:30 a.m. Faculty would be in attendance the entire day to work on grades and finish the third quarter of the school year. The BOE realized the positive results that could come from the process but also expressed concerns. Following discussion, the BOE approved the NHS request for no GBHS morning classes on 3/9/12 if the project goal is reached, with the understanding that prior to the subsequent year a related board policy will be in place providing definition and guidelines.

Approval of *Healthy Habits for Life* Grant: Eisenhower School Principal Tricia Reiser and School Nurse Millie Hill wish to apply for a *Healthy Habits for Life* grant program. The grant was created by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation for the purpose of assisting schools in encouraging students to make healthy lifestyle choices. The \$995.00 grant, if awarded, will be used for programs administered during the 2012 calendar year. The board approved the grant application.

Approval of Funds Expenditures: On June 14, 2010, the board approved spending \$43,320.00 for stadium seating and \$14,500.00 for bench back seating at Memorial Stadium. Reimbursement for the seats is to be paid back to Capital Outlay over the next three to six years through increased reserved-seat-ticket sales.

Dan Brungardt proposed a related spending / improvement plan which includes: build a new concession stand on the stadium's east side; replace the plastic bleachers on the east side with aluminum/steel bleachers; and replace/add sidewalks where needed to help people transition from the east to west side and throughout the complex.

- \$10,000.00 would be paid to the district from the athletic fund for last year.
- Repaid money from reserved-seat-ticket sales would be set aside and used for the proposed improvements.

Following discussion, the BOE approved utilizing the repaid money for capital improvements at Memorial Stadium.

Curriculum and Instruction Report:

- Curriculum Day in USD 428 – October 24, 2011. Mrs. Heinrichs shared details of the upcoming Curriculum Day. The day will begin with grade level / department meetings, followed by sessions on the Charlotte Danielson concept of *Effective Teaching*. During the afternoon, principals will facilitate school improvement activities.
- Kansas Assessments. A number of USD 428 personnel will participate in the annual Kansas Assessments fall conference on October 31, 2011. At this time not many changes are expected, though major refocusing will presumably occur in future years.
- Financial Literacy. Financial literacy is a topic of much discussion in USD 428. A committee has delved into the topic, focusing on the need for student instruction and on beneficial teaching methods within the district's curriculum.

The district recently conducted financial literacy tests for 165 GBHS seniors. Test questions, developed by the National Council of Economic Education, addressed financial *knowledge*, *comprehension*, and *application*. Mrs. Heinrichs provided summary test scores for the various components, with some questions successfully answered and others with low scores. Results will be shared with the district's Financial Literacy Committee to assist in developing recommendations for ways students can be provided related instruction (i.e., structured classes, instruction within existing classes, required or not required instruction, and other facets).

Additionally a parent survey was given on the topic. Though the percent of responders was not high, important information was gleaned regarding parents' opinions on financial literacy in the classroom. Committee members and GBHS Principal Tim Friess will continue to focus on the topic. Any changes made by the committee will go through the Curriculum Steering Committee and Administrative Council prior to being presented to the Board of Education for consideration and action.

- Meeting Minutes. Minutes were provided for the following meetings: Curriculum Steering Committee: 10/4/11 and Professional Development Council (PDC): 9/12/11 and 10/3/11.

Business / Operations Report:

- District Project – HVAC at the DEC. Mr. Brungardt shared the mechanical project plan documents for the DEC's HVAC project. Small units will be installed to service the BOE room and the meeting room immediately to the west. One large unit will handle the remainder of the building.

Improved lighting will accompany the HVAC and duct work improvements. Comfort and energy efficiency are prime considerations. The bid opening is set for 10/20/11, and a recommendation will be brought to the BOE at the 10/25/11 luncheon meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

- Term Expiration of BOE Representative to the GBRC Board. The GB Recreation Commission board is comprised of five members who represent the city, school, and recreation commission. Members serve four-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms, and currently Diana Dawson and Mary Misegadis are school representatives. The term of Diana Dawson expires 12/31/11. Since there is a two-term limit, Mrs. Dawson will not be eligible for reappointment. The district will announce in the *Tribune* the open position, and the administration will have a recommendation at the 11/14/11 BOE meeting.
- Seventh Grade Competitive Sports. A number of school districts similar in size to Great Bend are exploring seventh grade competitive athletics. Superintendent Vernon and Activities Director David Meter have visited with area school administrators regarding the topic, and they will continue discussions.
- Bullying. Dr. Vernon became aware of a group on a Facebook site entitled *Central Kansas Parents Against Bullying*. A representative of this group requested district policies regarding bullying. USD 428 takes the subject of bullying very seriously by being watchful, checking reports, and acting. It is imperative that all district personnel follow the policy and thereby provide schools where students feel safe and parents are comfortable and confident.

Financial Report: Dan Brungardt presented the warrants, financial report, travel summary, energy report, and health insurance status report to the Board members.

Consent Agenda: Board members, by consent, approved the following details.

- Approval of BOE Meeting Minutes: September 12 and 27, 2011.
- Bills and Financial Reports: Approved as presented by Dan Brungardt.
- Personnel Report: None.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: Board members were reminded of upcoming meetings.

- **BOE Luncheon Meeting:** at noon on Tuesday, October 25, 2011, at Jefferson Elementary School.

•**KASB Education Summit:** on October 27, 2011, in Wichita.

•**Education Foundation Dinner:** at 6:30 p.m., on November 22, 2011, at the Highland Convention Center

•**Annual KASB Convention:** on December 2-4, 2011, at Overland Park.

Adjournment: The Board of Education meeting was adjourned.

